



Navajo Nation Council - Office of the Speaker

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Public Safety Chair MacDonald-Lone Tree appointed to national Tribal Justice Advisory Group

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – The Honorable Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan (Iyanbito/Pinedale) congratulates Navajo Nation Council Delegate Hope MacDonald-Lone Tree (Coalmine Canyon/Toh Nanees Dizi), Chair of the Public Safety Committee, for being elected as co-Chair to the newly formed Office of Justice Program's Tribal Justice Advisory Group on Nov. 28, 2007. The advisory group is formed under the United States Department of Justice.

The other co-Chair is Jefferson Keel, who is the First Vice-President of the National Congress of American Indian (NCAI).

According to literature provided by the Tribal Justice Advisory Group (TJAG), the Justice Programs Council on Native American Affairs (JPCNAA) was established at a senior-level within the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) to ensure that tribal justice, safety policy issues, and strategies are developed and embraced by OJP leadership.

The establishment of JPCNAA was prompted as a response to the OJP Strategic Plan's "One OJP" model. This organization was structured according to the U.S. President's priorities and the U.S. Attorney General's goals and objectives.

This policy advisory group identifies programs, identifies opportunities, and addresses issues of concern that are relevant to Native American tribes and communities. The advisory group serves as a central point within the OJP for outreach, consultation, and coordination on justice and safety issues that affect Native American populations nationwide.

The policy advisory group will also serve as a liaison advisory group to the other Department of Justice (DOJ) agencies, offices, and bureaus that desire to participate in the Council's activities.

The Tribal Justice Advisory Group will provide and advise input to the JPCNAA, regarding the implementation of the DOJ policy. This is based on Executive Order No. 13175 from Nov. 2000, which reiterates the government-to-government relationship and requirements that each department develop a mechanism to coordinate and consult with tribal governments.

MacDonald-Lone Tree stated that it is the policy of the advisory group to consult with Native Americans and Alaska Natives to the greatest practicable extent permitted by law before it takes action.

The Council will plan to engage with Native American tribes through the TJAG in an advisory capacity to assist with the Council's purpose. The Council plans to work effectively with tribal governments on public safety and criminal justice matters that affect tribes and their communities.

The functions of the TJAG include, but are not limited to, advising the Council on various issues that affect Native Americans. The TJAG will promote the highest quality of tribal justice systems, while enhancing the public safety of Native Americans. The TJAG will also promote a departmental strategy to provide a comprehensive service delivery system for Native Americans as well.

In addition, the TJAG will identify and target priority needs that are related to tribal justice and safety in the Native American communities, while focusing on interagency coordination with other departments and non-federal agencies. This coordination will be in accordance with the U.S. Presidential Executive memorandum, executive orders, and the DOJ policy on tribal sovereignty in a government-to-government relationship with Native American tribes.

It was also explained by MacDonald-Lone Tree that the TJAG will be tasked with providing recommendations for developing short, intermediate, and long range solutions to improve department programs and policy that target Native American communities. The group will also distribute information, data, and statistics that will accurately describe the tribal justice and safety needs of Native Americans.

MacDonald-Lone Tree explained that there are 12-members on the Tribal Justice Advisory Group and they represent 12-regions from across the country. There are also 12 alternates and Council Delegate Raymond Joe (Tachee/Blue Gap/Whippoorwill) is the Navajo Nation's alternate member, while MacDonald-Lone Tree is the primary Navajo Nation representative. MacDonald-Lone Tree was appointed by both the Navajo Nation Council's Public Safety Committee and the Intergovernmental Relations Committee.

The remaining 11 regions include Alaska, the Eastern region, Eastern Oklahoma, the Great Plains, the Midwest, the Northwest region, the Pacific region, the Rocky Mountains, the Southern Plains, and the Western region.

"I am honored to have been elected to this important position by a select group of tribal leaders," MacDonald-Lone Tree said. "It is a privilege to work directly with the USDOJ at the highest level to advocate for and address the public safety needs across Native America."

Speaker Morgan explained that Navajo Nation Council Delegates continue to pave roads for the continued advocacy of our Navajo Nation and for all Native people. "It is because of these joint efforts, the Navajo Nation's presence is strong and unrelenting."

For more information, contact Joshua Lavar Butler with the Office of the Speaker at 928-871-7160.